

Please share this bulletin with family and friends; anyone can join us on Zoom anywhere in the world!

Reminder, articles for publication must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Next Shabbat at Hevrat Shalom Congregation

May 7th 2021 at 7:45 PM on Zoom and 4 PM on Ingleside's Channel 976

Look for your "eVite" or use the link below:

Below is the link for all Hevrat Shalom Zoom Events:

<https://zoom.us/j/2407676518?pwd=cG5QdGRBQ0IGK1Q1ZlJUQktTc0M5QT09>

ID: 240 767 6518 Password: Hevrat21

Dial-in Phone Number for Voice Only: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID for Voice Only: 240 767 6518

Password for Voice Only: 025649#



The Feast of Weeks **Rabbi Stan Levin**

The Feast of Weeks – Shavuoth, sundown Sunday May 16 to sundown Tuesday May 18, 2021 (6-7 Sivan 5781). The Feast of Weeks is a holiday associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, 50 days after the second day of Passover. There is no specific reference in the Torah to our receiving the Ten Commandments, let alone the Torah on the Feast of Weeks. However, that is the tradition, and it is connected to many other events in Jewish history. For example, tradition has it that King David was born and died on Shavuoth. The Baal Shem Tov (founder of Chasidic Judaism) also died on Shavuoth according to tradition.

In many ways, the forms of celebrating Succoth have not to do with traditions than the account of it in the Torah. In traditional congregations, the Story of Ruth is read on Shavuoth, because King David descends from Ruth and Boaz. We eat dairy meals on Shavuoth because when we received the Torah on Mt. Sinai, we learned the rules of keeping Kosher and therefore did not have Kosher meat at the time of the first Shavuoth.

On the first day of Shavuoth, in many synagogues there are readings of Exodus 19 and 20 that describe our receiving the Ten Commandments.

Unlike all other Jewish holidays, Shavuoth is not given a specific date in the Bible. Instead, it is the number of days after "the Sabbath" of Passover. Even that is controversial because some people count it from the second day of Passover and others from the Sabbath that falls during Passover.

There are five specific references to Shavuoth in the Torah:

- 1) Exodus 23:16 - And the festival of the reaping of the first fruits of your workings that you seeded in the field;

- 2) Exodus 34:22 - And the festival of Weeks [Shavuoth] you will make for yourself with the first fruits of the reaping of wheat...;
- 3) Leviticus 23:15 - You will count for yourself from the day after the Sabbath from the day of your bringing the Omer [sheaf of wheat] for a wave-offering for seven Sabbaths, complete they will be;
- 4) Deuteronomy 16:10 - You will make a Festival of Shavuoth for YHVH your Elohim, a measure of the free-will of your hand;
- 5) Deuteronomy 16:16 - Three times in the year all of your males will appear before YHVH your Elohim in the place that He chose: with the Festival of the Unleavened Breads, and with the Festival of the Weeks...

What I find endearing about the celebration of Shavuoth is that some rabbis have said that it celebrates the marriage of G-d and the Children of Israel. This is based on two verses of the Torah that can be interpreted as a proposal and an acceptance:

- 1) Exodus 19:5 – (G-d is the speaker): And now, if you surely obey me and you keep My covenant, you will be for Me the most treasured of all the people, for all the earth is mine.
- 2) Exodus 19:8 – And all the people answered as one and they said, “All that YHVH spoke, we will do...”

Of the festivals in the Torah, Shavuoth may be the least observed. However, if we look at it in Biblical context is the fulfillment of our departure from Egypt to be free and to serve G-d. Chag Shavuoth Same'ach (Happy Feast of Weeks)



Shavuot Rabbi Peter Novick

The Jewish Holiday of Shavuot begins on the evening of Sunday, May 16, 2021. It lasts for two days and ends on the evening of May 18. It is one of the three major holidays know as the *shelosch regalim*, the three agricultural or pilgrimage holidays.

One of the most beautiful images of Shavuot is that of the marriage between God (the groom) and the people of Israel (the bride). Developing this image, Pesach is the period of God's courtship of Israel, and Shavuot celebrates the actual marriage.

Shavuot, known as the Feast of Weeks, takes place exactly seven weeks after Passover. Seven is a powerful, indivisible number suggesting completion. Although it is not well known, Shavuot is a holiday of tremendous importance. During Passover the Jews broke free from slavery, but they needed more than that. They needed to know how to live good lives.

Shavuot celebrates the event that gave the people the direction they needed, God's instruction to the Jews at Mount Sinai. To make sure there would be no misunderstanding, God spoke to everyone at the same time. God gave the Jewish people the Torah, including the Ten Commandments.

The Torah provides a blueprint of how to live life and how we are to live in this world. The Torah spells out of the details of the Covenant that was agreed upon and sealed at Sinai.

Sinai and Shavuot are more than receiving of the Torah, it is experiencing of the Divine, an experience shared by all Jews of all time, for each of us was there and heard the Voice of Sinai. Shavuot and Sinai are central to our belief in God who cares about this world and expects us to strive in our lives to practice what is good and just.



The Cracked Vessel **Cantor Caron Dale**

An old woman had two water cans that were attached to a yoke. Each day she put the yoke over her shoulders and went down to the river, filled the cans, and walked back to her modest hut. The water can on the right side of the yoke was fine and sturdy. When she arrived home it was always full.

But the can on the left had a crack in it. By the time the woman arrived home, half the water was usually gone.

The water can always felt inferior to its partner. It was ashamed that it was cracked and wasn't pulling its weight. One day it turned to the woman and apologized for being defective. The woman smiled gently and said, "Did you think I didn't know that you had a crack, and water dripped from you? Look at the path from the river to my hut. Do you see all the beautiful flowers that are growing on one side of the path? Those are the flowers that I planted there, that you watered every day as I walked home from the river."

So many things on this earth are not always as they seem. One person's defect is another person's blessing. As we celebrate Shavuot, when God revealed the sacred and mystical Torah to the newly freed nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, may we unveil the many hidden blessings in our lives.



Singing Within a Pandemic **Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf**

As you may sadly recall over a year ago, the COVID-19 virus unknowingly infected 52 singers at a choir practice an hour outside of Seattle. Although the choir members did not hug or shake hands at that fateful rehearsal, two singers died and many became sick. The emerging understanding was that the act of singing caused a 'super-spreader' event

due to the power with which air is manipulated when making music. This caused the cessation of every choir's rehearsal plan and sent singing into a scary tailspin.

As you know, I am President of Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital (www.zemerchai.org). We haven't been together in over a year, and it is uncertain whether will ever reconvene. Singers NEED to sing (did I mention that I do weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, and other simchas, LOL?). I am so grateful that the opportunity to be a cantorial soloist at Hevrat Shalom came my way. You are a lovely group of people who are welcoming and engaging,

and I look forward to seeing you in the flesh one day. In the meantime, let's continue singing together, creating ruach (*spirit, breath*) in the virtual world.

NEW Congregant Corner

Sue Tubbs

We will be focusing on one member of Hevrat Shalom each month to get to know our wonderful members. We will begin this feature with Elihu Zimet. Elihu, and his wife Beyth have been with our congregation from the start. Many of you have celebrated Sukkot on the deck at their home in Darnestown. We are also grateful to Elihu for making our beautiful ark which is dedicated to our founding Vice President, Libby Elkaim.



Elihu Zimete

I'm Eli Zimet, a long-time member of Hevrat Shalom and a former member of the Congregation's Board of Directors. We hope you've come to my home for the Hevrat Shalom Annual Picnic and Sukkot celebration.

In 1941, I was born in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn into a loving family including an older sister and a younger brother. Ten years later we moved to the Midwood section of Brooklyn where I lived through my High School (Brooklyn Technical High School) and undergraduate years (Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn).

In 1962, I moved to New Haven where I was associated with Yale University until 1972, receiving a Ph.D. in Engineering and Applied Science and staying on as a Lecturer. I moved to the D.C. area to start a thirty-year career at the Department of the Navy finishing up in the Senior Executive Service at the Office of Naval Research. For the next seven years, I worked at the National Defense University focusing on Technology and National Security Policy. Then came a contented retirement with occasionally serving on technology-defense related panels.

Beth and I have been married for 53 years; she also hails from Brooklyn, a graduate of Brooklyn College. We met on a blind date and were married six months later. We have three happily married children and six grandchildren; the oldest is now a sophomore at UVA. Beth has held many titles in her career including Director of Technology Development at Computer Sciences Corporation, Vice President of Engineering at a start-up, and Management Consultant at the MITRE Corp. Our older son is a Clinical Psychologist, our daughter is a Principal Fund Raiser at the new National Museum of the U.S. Army, and our younger son is a Financial Analyst at DARPA.

In my early teens in Brooklyn, I started playing handball (with my father), playing the clarinet (in my school bands), and learning shop skills (at middle school through graduate school). These three skills have remained with me over the years and have become my principal hobbies in my retirement. I have won trophies in handball and have handed down these handball skills to my sons, who continue to win trophies. I play the clarinet in several music groups. You can see one of my woodworking projects at our services; I made the "mobile ark." Beth and I travel extensively starting from my tenure on a NATO technology

organization. Another hobby learned in my teens is skiing – also now appreciated by our kids and grandkids -- and enjoyed on family ski vacations to Vermont and Canada.

We are looking to a near future where we can all congregate again and get back to those activities that we loved in the past.

Events Calendar

Friday, May 7, Sabbath Service led by Rabbi Stan Levin with Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf, 7:45 pm, “*Live – on - Hevrat’s Zoom connection*, or, at 4:00 pm on Ingleside’s Channel 976. A community Oneg (chat) with Rabbi Stan will follow the 7:45 service.

Thursday, May 13, 10:00 am, KAVOD ON THE ROAD, a 50 minute seminar led by Cantor Caron Dale: Jewish Jazz. Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Herbie Mann, Stan Getz, Al Jolson, Artie Shaw, Buddy Rich all had great influences on the American jazz scene. How did their being Jewish impact their success?

Friday, May 21, Sabbath Service led by Rabbi Peter Novick with Cantor Caron Dale, 7:45 pm Live-on-Zoom. A community Oneg (chat) with Rabbi Peter and Cantor Dale will follow the 7:45 service.

Sunday, May 23, 4 pm, *The Inquisition and the Jews*, an overview of key developments of the Inquisition and its involvement in Jewish affairs with Professor Paola Tartakoff. A recorded lecture provided by Rutgers University broadcast on Hevat’s Zoom Connection.

Tuesday, May 25, 7:45 – 8:30 pm, Hevrat Shalom TOWN HALL led by Dr. Permison. A community discussion regarding our 5782 High Holidays, clergy and event planning.

Anytime Live Links, Listings of interesting Jewish community events available online, mostly without cost, provided by our Live Links Editor, Michael Chernick. Help make this live links a success by sending Michael relevant internet links that you would like to share with our membership. Unfortunately, no links were received this month.


<u>Welcome New Members</u>
Allan & Leah Lipman
David Stander
Doris Bratt & David Cohen
Martin & Sandy Rush
Lisa Peterson
Building a Future, Maintaining our past.



May Yahrzeits

Jimmy Cook	Brother of Carol Bahr
Laura Dahlquest	Mother of Kay Permison
Norma Dancis	Member
Margot Dessauer	Wife of Ralph Dessauer
Edith Felkow	Sister of Irene Shapiro
Irene Ginsberg	Mother of Miriam Rothchild
Aaron Girson	Grandson of Sam and Norma Girson
Sally Hamburger	Irma Bierman
Imogene Lehman	Wife of Leonard Lehman
Helene Levine	Wife of Rabbi Reubin Levine
Lois Mackler	Sister of Sandra Wolk
Morris Myers	Father of Joseph Myers
Norma Nissison	Mother in Law of Rabbi Saltzman
Gladys Pearlstein	Sister of Florence Lang
Evelyn Schulman	Mother of Bonni Dutcher
Theodore Sussman	Grandfather of Ted Bahr
Clara Swart	Mother of Mimi Goldstein
Joseph Temin	Father of Adele Lehman
Yvette Weiss	Aunt of Elaine Moses
Herman Wolk	Husband of Sandra Wolk

Year of Mourning

Irwin Faibisch	Husband of Fran Faibisch
Ed Isaacs	Husband of Edith Isaacs
Florence Long	Beloved wife of Gerald Long
Ina Land	Mother in Law of Dorie Moses Land

May their names be for a blessing. . . .

לְבִרְכָה זְכוֹרָנָם חֲכָמֵינוּ אִמְרוּ (ל"א אַחַד)

May Yahrzeits

Sam Bayless	Father of Susan Stromberg
Morris Bierman	Son of Irma Bierman
Seymour Bayden	Member
Bertha Crausman	Mother of Joel Crausman
Joseph Hein	Member, husband of Estelle
Bob Keith	Father of Claudia Zaritsky
Herman Kravet	Husband of Mimi Goldstein
Florence Lang	Wife of Gerry Lang
Robert Levin	Brother of Rabbi Stan Levin
Leroy Moses	Husband of Elaine Moses
Rose Myers	Mother of Joseph Myers
Ruth Sawelson	Mother of Beth Zimet
Louis Shapiro	Brother of Hyman Shapiro
Julius Sholenksy	Father of Sandra Crausman
Josephine Simmons	Irma Bierman

Year of Mourning

Irwin Faibisch	Husband of Fran
Carl Berlinger	Husband of Judy
Ed Isaacs	Husband of Edith Isaacs
Florence Long	Beloved wife of Gerald Long
Irma Bierman	Beloved Member
Irv Perlman	Beloved Member
Ina Land	Mother in Law of Dorie Moses Land

May their names be for a blessing. . . .

לְבִרְכָה זְכוּרָנָם חֲכָמֵינוּ אִמְרוּ ל"א חז